

Treasurer for two years. He continues to serve as deputy treasurer.

Mr. Verrastro was married to the former Angelina Mecca, who died in 1996, and the couple had three children: Vita Grace Masucci, Carmel Ann Biko and Dominic Verrastro. He has seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Verrastro on being selected as "Man of the Year." His contributions to his community demonstrate his selflessness and commitment to improving the quality of life.

A TRIBUTE TO AFRICAN LODGE 459
NO. 63

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of African Lodge 459 No. 63, ardent supporters of the community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding organization and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing their impressive accomplishments.

African Lodge 459 No. 63 was founded in 1921 from a group of Brooklyn's outstanding young men: Bro. Francis F. Giles, Widow Sons' No. 11, Mr. A.P. Portias, J. Francis Mickens, W.R. Lee, William Odell, Cornelius Moore and Samuel W. Green. Due to their success in Masonic circles, African Lodge 459 No. 63 was granted bona fide Lodge status and on November 19, 1921, they became an integral part of the Masonic Fraternity of the State of New York and the nation. The Lodge is appropriately named after African Lodge 459, the original lodge of the illustrious founder of Masonry among men of color in the United States, Prince Hall.

Down through the years, the Lodge has achieved and maintained a very prominent place in the jurisdiction. It has furnished the fraternity with numerous officers and is currently represented in the Grand Cabinet by R.W. Richard A. Grady, Judge Advocate, R.W. Elwood E. Gregory, District Deputy Grand Lecturer.

With 13 living members and 9 honorary members, their mission as Prince Hall Masons is to serve God through selfless service to others. They strive to give our youth a positive direction and high self-esteem; our elderly the love, respect and attention they deserve; and our poor and down trodden brothers and sisters whatever assistance they can provide. Over the past 84 years, they have raised funds for college scholarships, summer camps, reading clinics, community feeding programs, Christmas gifts for needy and/or hospitalized children, and their Knights of Pythagoras youth group.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of African Lodge 459 No. 63. This groups' deep commitment to love, support and assist one another makes them most worthy of our recognition today.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HERBERT H.
RICHARDSON

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Herbert H. Richardson for his incredible dedication to the scientific community at Texas A&M University as Director of the Texas Transportation Institute and Associate Vice Chancellor for Engineering.

Dr. Richardson was born in the State of Massachusetts and was educated at Colby College in Maine and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he received a B.S. and M.S. degree with honors in 1955, and the Sc.D. in 1958 from MIT. Shortly after graduation, he served as a faculty member, then as head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Association Dean for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for 27 years. Under his leadership, he conducted and directed a wide-ranging research program, and made numerous publications of his research in mechanical engineering and transportation systems.

He then served as the first Chief Scientist of the U.S. Department of Transportation from 1970 to 1972, and joined the Texas A&M University System in 1984 as Vice Chancellor for Engineering, and Dean of the College of Engineering and Distinguished Professor of Engineering. Dr. Richardson brought together the three engineering research and service agencies—the Texas Engineering Experiment Station, the Texas Engineering Extension Service, and the Texas Transportation Institute—to form an integrated Engineering Program. In 1993, he became Director of the Texas Transportation Institute, the largest university-affiliated transportation research organization, and Associate Vice Chancellor for Engineering. Under his leadership, the Texas Transportation Institute has become home to nine national research centers with expenditures ranging to \$36 million.

Dr. Richardson has also received numerous accolades and awards from his peers for his exemplary academic leadership such as the recently awarded 2006 Roy W. Crum Distinguished Service Award from Transportation Research Board, Rufus Oldenberger Medal, Centennial Medal and the Benjamin Garver Lamme Medal by the American Association for Engineering Education; and in addition to these awards, he was elected to several notable organizations such as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, American Association for the Advancement of Science, National Associate of the National Academies and the Research Council.

In his 22 years of academic service with the Texas A&M University System, Dr. Richardson has shown exemplary leadership in building strong academic and research programs, thus helping make the College of Engineering and the Texas Transportation Institute one of the unparalleled centers for excellent education in engineering.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the strong academic leadership of Dr. Herbert H. Richardson for the Texas A&M University System.

MARCUS HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING
BAND, STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior performance of the Marcus High School Marching Band of the 26th District of Texas. The band won the State championship at the UIL Class 5A Marching Contest in San Antonio, TX.

The breakdown of a travel bus did not deter the Marcus High School Band from capping off their marching season with excellence. At the rigorous UIL competition, Marcus surpassed 35 elite Texas programs before receiving the top honor of State champions. Marcus competed against all 5A Texas high schools reserve a spot in the State competition.

The band's achievements are the combined efforts of many extremely talented students, dedicated school administrators, and a strong support network of parents and community. The students have cultivated strong leadership skills among their peers, and excelled under the capable direction of Director Amanda Drinkwater.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the achievements of the Marcus High School Marching Band. I extend my sincere congratulations to these hard-working students, and I look forward to their future successes.

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES J. BINNS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor James J. Binns for his service to the people of Philadelphia. Jimmy Binns is a Philadelphia attorney specializing in litigation who has always been a friend of labor. His unflinching service to labor is shown by his achievement of 51 consecutive "not guilty" verdicts on behalf of those accused of picket line violence during the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers strike. It is clear his efforts enabled union members to unite to better their lot without fear of intimidation.

Mr. Binns is more than a friend of labor. He is also an important member of the community as seen through his service on numerous boards, including the Boy Scouts of America, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and St. Luke's Hospital. He also dedicated the James J. Binns Fitness Center at LaSalle University, his alma mater. Mr. Binns founded the Judeo Christian School at Roman Catholic. Additionally, Mr. Binns initiated the current fundraising drive to replace 65 motorcycles for the Philadelphia Police Highway Patrol.

Mr. Binns also chaired the Organized Crime Task Force of the Citizens Crime Commission and served as Pennsylvania's Boxing Commissioner under Governors Dick Thornburgh and Bob Casey. Due to his service he was inducted into the Pennsylvania Boxing Hall of Fame.

It is readily apparent that James J. Binns has played a vital role in the betterment of the community of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania